

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

25

R. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth:
unto such as keep his covenant.

Shew me thy ways, O Lord,
and teach me thy paths.
Lead me forth in thy truth,
for thou art the God of my salvation. **R.**

Call to remembrance, O Lord,
thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.
According to thy mercy
think thou upon me,
O Lord, for thy goodness. **R.**

Gracious and righteous is the Lord;
therefore will he teach sinners
in the way.
Them that are meek shall he guide in
judgment, and such as are gentle,
them shall he learn his way. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first Letter of St Peter.

Beloved: Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous,

that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 91

God shall give his Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee in their hands, that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.
Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say unto the Lord: Thou art my hope and my stronghold: my God, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers.

His faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler: thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night.

Nor for the arrow that flieth by day, for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noonday.

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

We would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 141:2; Matt. 25:4,6

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense O Lord. And let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Alleluia, alleluia. The five wise virgins took oil in their vessels with their lamps: and at midnight there was a cry made: Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him, Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

"Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

"For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

"As the bridegroom was delayed,

they all slumbered and slept.

"But at midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut.

"Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

This is the Gospel of the Lord



The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time A

THE FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

Who can find a good wife? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the

spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

128

R. Blessed are they that fear the Lord.

Blessed are they that fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

For thou shalt eat the labour
of thine hands:

happy shalt thou be,
and it shall be well with thee. **R.**

Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine
upon the walls of thine house;

Thy children like the olive-branches
round about thy table. **R.**

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed
that feareth the Lord.

The Lord from out of Sion
shall so bless thee
that thou shalt see Jerusalem
in prosperity all thy life long. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

1 *Thessalonians 5:1-6*

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

As to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction

will come upon them as labour pains come upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape.

But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.

So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 44:8,9; 130:1

It is thou, O Lord, that savest us from our enemies: and puttest them to confusion that hate us. We make our boast in God all day long: and will praise thy Name for ever. Alleluia. Alleluia. Out of the deep have I called unto thee, Lord hear my voice. Alleluia

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:14-30

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

"He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more.

"But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

THE SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the word which he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), the word which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 72:18; 89:21

Blessed be the Lord, even the God of Israel: which only doeth wondrous things. The mountains also shall bring peace: and the little hills righteousness unto the people. Alleluia. Alleluia. I have found David my servant. With my holy oil have I anointed him. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 1: 7-11

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

At that time: John the Baptist preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you

with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The Presentation of the Lord

SEE YEAR A

The First Sunday of Lent B

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 9: 8-15

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

"I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Mary, Mother of God

SEE YEAR **A**

The Second Sunday after Christmas

SEE YEAR **A**

The Epiphany of the Lord

SEE YEAR **A**

The Baptism of the Lord **B**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Behold, my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him, he will
bring forth justice to the nations. He
will not cry or lift up his voice, or make
it heard in the street; a bruised reed he

will not break, and a dimly burning
wick he will not quench; he will faith-
fully bring forth justice.

He will not fail or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth; and the coastlands wait for his
law.

“I am the Lord, I have called you in
righteousness, I have taken you by the
hand and kept you; I have given you as
a covenant to the people, a light to the
nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dun-
geon, from the prison those who sit in
darkness.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

29

R. The Lord shall give his people
the blessing of peace.

Bring unto the Lord, O ye mighty,
ascribe unto the Lord
worship and strength.

Give the Lord
the honour due unto his Name;
worship the Lord with holy worship. **R.**

It is the Lord
that commandeth the waters;
it is the glorious God
that maketh the thunder.
It is the Lord that ruleth the sea;
the voice of the Lord
is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord
is a glorious voice. **R.**

The Lord sitteth above the water-flood,
and the Lord remaineth a King for ever.
The Lord shall give strength
unto his people;
the Lord shall give his people
the blessing of peace. **R.**



Christ the King **A**

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

A reading from the Book of the
Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God, “Behold,
I, I myself will search for my sheep,
and will seek them out. As a shepherd
seeks out his flock when some of his
sheep have been scattered abroad, so
will I seek out my sheep; and I will
rescue them from all places where they
have been scattered on a day of clouds
and thick darkness.

“I myself will be the shepherd of my
sheep, and I will make them lie down”,
says the Lord God.

“I will seek the lost, and I will bring
back the strayed, and I will bind up
the crippled, and I will strengthen the
weak, and the fat and the strong I will
watch over; I will feed them in justice.

“As for you, my flock,” thus says the
Lord God, “Behold, I judge between
sheep and sheep, rams and he-goats.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

23

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.

The Lord is my shepherd,
therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture
and lead me forth

beside the waters of comfort. **R.**

He shall convert my soul,
and bring me forth

“Now after a long time the master
of those servants came and settled ac-
counts with them.

“And he who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five
talents more, saying, ‘Master, you de-
livered to me five talents; here I have
made five talents more.’ His mas-
ter said to him, ‘Well done, good and
faithful servant; you have been faithful
over a little, I will set you over much;
enter into the joy of your master.’

“And he also who had the two tal-
ents came forward, saying, ‘Master,
you delivered to me two talents; here I
have made two talents more.’ His mas-
ter said to him, ‘Well done, good and
faithful servant; you have been faithful
over a little, I will set you over much;
enter into the joy of your master.’

“He also who had received the one
talent came forward, saying, ‘Master,
I knew you to be a hard man, reaping
where you did not sow, and gathering
where you did not winnow; so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent
in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.’ But his master answered him,
‘You wicked and slothful servant!
You knew that I reap where I have not
sowed, and gather where I have not
winnowed? Then you ought to have
invested my money with the bankers,
and at my coming I should have re-
ceived what was my own with interest.
So take the talent from him, and give it
to him who has the ten talents.

“For to every one who has will more
be given, and he will have abundance;
but from him who has not, even what
he has will be taken away. And cast
the worthless servant into the outer
darkness; where there will be weeping
and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

in the paths of righteousness,
for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff comfort me. **R.**

Thou shalt prepare a table before me
against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil,
and my cup shall be full. **R.**

But thy loving-kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell

in the house of the Lord for ever. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

A reading from the first Letter of St
Paul to the Corinthians.

Brethren: Christ has been raised
from the dead, the first fruits of those
who have fallen asleep.

For as by a man came death, by a
man has come also the resurrection of
the dead.

For as in Adam all die, so also in
Christ shall all be made alive.

But each in his own order: Christ
the first fruits, then at his coming those
who belong to Christ. Then comes the
end, when he delivers the kingdom to
God the Father after destroying every
rule and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put
all his enemies under his feet. The last
enemy to be destroyed is death. When
all things are subjected to him, then
the Son himself will also be subjected
to him who put all things under him,
that God may be everything to every
one.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 71:8, 11; 148:3

His dominion shall be from the one sea
to the other, and from the flood unto the
world's end. All kings shall fall down
before him: all nations shall do him
service. Alleluia, alleluia. His dominion
is an everlasting dominion, which
shall not pass away: and his kingdom
that which shall not be destroyed. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31-46

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel
according to Matthew.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,

“When the Son of man comes in
his glory, and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on his glorious throne.
Before him will be gathered all the nations,
and he will separate them one
from another as a shepherd separates
the sheep from the goats, and he will
place the sheep at his right hand, but
the goats at the left.

“Then the King will say to those at
his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
for you from the foundation of the
world; for I was hungry and you gave
me food, I was thirsty and you gave
me drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, I was naked and you
clothed me, I was sick and you visited
me, I was in prison and you came to
me.’

“Then the righteous will answer
him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hun-
gry and feed you, or thirsty and give
you drink? And when did we see you
a stranger and welcome you, or naked

Fathers, do not provoke your children,
lest they become discouraged.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 27:4; 32:1

One thing I have desired of the Lord,
which I will require: even that I may
dwell in the House of the Lord. To be-
hold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to
visit his temple. Alleluia, Alleluia. Re-
joice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for it
becometh the just to be thankful. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel
according to Luke.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When the time came for their purifi-
cation according to the law of Moses,
the parents of Jesus brought him up to
Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
(as it is written in the law of the Lord,
“Every male that opens the womb shall
be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer
a sacrifice according to what is said
in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle-
doves, or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem,
whose name was Simeon, and this man
was righteous and devout, looking for
the consolation of Israel, and the Holy
Spirit was upon him. And it had been
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that
he should not see death before he had
seen the Lord's Christ.

And inspired by the Spirit he came
into the temple; and when the parents
brought in the child Jesus, to do for
him according to the custom of the law,
he took him up in his arms and blessed

God and said,

“Lord, now let your servant de-
part in peace, according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared in the pres-
ence of all peoples, a light for revela-
tion to the Gentiles, and for glory to
your people Israel.”

And his father and his mother mar-
veled at what was said about him; and
Simeon blessed them and said to Mary
his mother, “Behold, this child is set
for the fall and rising of many in Israel,
and for a sign that is spoken against
(and a sword will pierce through your
own soul also), that thoughts out of
many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna,
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe
of Asher; she was of a great age, hav-
ing lived with her husband seven years
from her virginity, and as a widow till
she was eighty-four. She did not de-
part from the temple, worshiping with
fasting and prayer night and day.

And coming up at that very hour
she gave thanks to God, and spoke of
him to all who were looking for the re-
demption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed ev-
erything according to the law of the
Lord, they returned into Galilee, to
their own city, Nazareth. And the child
grew and became strong, filled with
wisdom; and the favour of God was
upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The Sunday After Christmas Holy Family B

THE FIRST READING

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother.

O son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; and do not despise him all the days of his life. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you - a house raised in justice to you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

128

R. Blessed are they that fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.

Blessed are they that fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
For thou shalt eat the labour
of thine hands:
happy shalt thou be,
and it shall be well with thee. R.

Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine
upon the walls of thine house;
Thy children like the olive-branches
round about thy table. R.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed
that feareth the Lord.
The Lord from out of Sion
shall so bless thee
that thou shalt see Jerusalem
in prosperity all thy life long. R.

THE SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to
the Colossians.

Brethren: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?

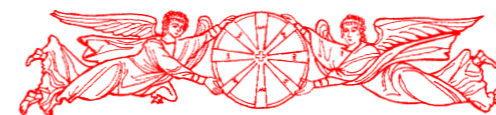
"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

"Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

"Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The First Sunday of Advent B

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3 - 8

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.
O Lord, why do you make us err from

your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.

O that you would tear the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence! You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet him that joyfully works righteousness, those that remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one that calls upon thy name, that bestirs himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquities.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

80

R. Turn us again, O God,
shew the light of thy face,
and we shall be whole.

Hear O thou Shepherd of Israel,
shew thyself also,
thou that sittest upon the cherubims.
Stir up thy strength,
and come, and help us. R.

Turn thee again, thou God of hosts,
look down from heaven:

behold, and visit this vine;
and the place of the vineyard
that thy right hand hath planted. **R.**

Let thy hand be upon the man
of thy right hand,
and upon the son of man,
whom thou madest so strong
for thyself.
And so we will not go back from thee.
O let us live,
and we shall call upon thy Name. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brethren: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge - even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 25:3-4; 85:8

For all they that look for thee shall not be ashamed, O Lord. Make known to me thy ways, O Lord : and grant us thy salvation. Alleluia, alleluia. Show us thy mercy, O Lord : and teach me thy paths. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:33-37

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

"Watch therefore - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning - lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The Second Sunday of Advent **B**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every moun-

the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 145:18,21

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him : yea, all such as call upon him faithfully. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord : and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy name. Alleluia. Alleluia. Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father

David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I have no husband?"

And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

"And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Readings for the Nativity of the Lord

MIDNIGHT MASS

MASS AT DAWN

MASS DURING THE DAY

AS FOR YEAR **A**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent **B**

THE FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

A reading from the second Book of Samuel.

When David, the king, dwelt in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies round about, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

"And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

"Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. And your

house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

89

R. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever:

with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.

For I have said,

Mercy shall be built up for ever:

thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. **R.**

"I have made a covenant

with my chosen,

I have sworn unto David my servant,

'I will establish thy descendants

for ever,

and set up thy throne

for all generations.'" **R.**

"He shall cry unto me,

'Thou art my father, my God,

and the rock of my salvation.'

My mercy will I keep for him

for evermore,

and my covenant shall stand fast

with him.'" **R.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Brethren: To him who is able to strengthen you according to my Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through

tain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!' Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

"He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

85

R. O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us, and grant us thy salvation.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me, for he shall speak peace unto his people. For his salvation is nigh them that fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth and righteousness hath looked down from heaven. **R.**

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness, and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him and he shall direct his going in the way. **R.**

THE SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second Letter of St Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire!

But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 50:2,3,5; 122:1

Out of Sion hath God appeared: in perfect beauty. Gather my saints together unto me, those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice. Alleluia.

Alleluia. I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

The Beginning of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

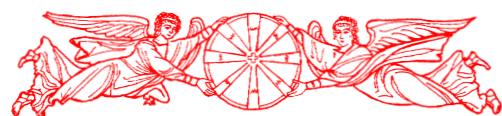
The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

This is the Gospel of the Lord



The Third Sunday of Advent **B**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Saviour.

My soul doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Saviour,
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed. R.

For he that is mighty
hath magnified me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations. R.

He hath filled the hungry
with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away;

He remembering his mercy
hath holpen his servant Israel;
as he promised to our fathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever. R.

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brethren: Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 80:2-8

Show thyself, O Lord, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim : stir up thy strength and come. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel : thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Alleluia. Alleluia. Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come and help us. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:6 - 8, 19-28

The Continuation of the Holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God,

whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

